

The eruption corresponded absolutely with the figures shown by Head<sup>1</sup> for the distribution of the superior ophthalmic division of the fifth nerve. Head notes in the second case referred to that the lower eyelid on the same side as the eruption was much swollen; the swelling of the lower eyelids of both sides seemed not to have been recorded before.

#### DISCUSSION.

Sir MALCOLM MORRIS considered that when, in such cases, the nasal branch was involved the outlook for the eye was bad. Recently a lady patient of his came out of the theatre, and as her carriage did not draw up for some time she stood on the pavement waiting for it in a cold east wind. Three days after that exposure she came out in a similar condition to this patient. She did not become septic, but there was a danger of that happening. The lids of both eyes began to be affected at the same time. In this case the pain was intense and lasted for many weeks. Mr. Jessop saw the lady for her eyes.

Dr. SEQUEIRA looked upon the œdema of the lower lid on the opposite side to the herpes as a simple extension due to anastomoses of the lymphatics across the bridge of the nose.

#### Case of Erythema ab Igne.

By E. G. GRAHAM LITTLE, M.D.

THE patient was an anæmic and delicate-looking boy, aged 13, the subject of congenital hernia, for which he was awaiting operation. The history given by the mother and the boy was that he had for the past three weeks been feeling poorly and easily chilled, and had spent several hours daily sitting close up to the fire; the changes in pigmentation had not been noted before this period, namely, three weeks. There was now a well-marked fenestrated pigmentation on the front of both legs just below the knee. Of exceptional interest was the fact that the pigmented mesh-like lesions were also raised and almost warty. Perry had recorded a similar condition in *erythema ab igne*.<sup>2</sup> In addition to

<sup>1</sup> "Pathology of Herpes Zoster," *Brain*, 1900, xxiii, p. 509, fig. 19; "Disturbances of Sensation and the Pain of Visceral Disease," *ibid.*, 1894, xvii, p. 375.

<sup>2</sup> *Brit. Journ. Derm.*, 1900, xii, p. 94.

the pigmentation on the legs there was a similar mesh-like pigmentation of the back of both hands, but especially of the right hand; here the pigmented areas were completely flat. The boy gave the explanation that he habitually had his hands spread out over his knees when sitting by the fire. The occurrence of the eruption on any other part except the legs was very unusual. Crocker records that the pigmentation had been noted on the hands and arms in one case he had seen.<sup>1</sup> The time within which the condition had developed seemed incredibly short, but the history was persisted in by both the patient and his mother. The boy had a slightly xerodermic skin, not amounting to ichthyosis; the skin on the front of the knees was thickened, and it was suggested that the elevation of the lesions might be explained by this circumstance.

#### DISCUSSION.

Sir MALCOLM MORRIS said that in the cases of the kind he had seen the condition arose only after very prolonged warming at the fire. He did not think it likely that only three weeks' warming would suffice to bring out the present condition. Children at institutions sometimes were found with a similar condition on account of stasis and cold.

Dr. WHITFIELD said he believed that the epidermic thickening was akin to angio-keratoma in the way of production. He thought there was first chronic congestion with telangiectasis, and upon this a certain degree of wartiness developed.

Dr. PARKES WEBER remarked that if Dr. Little's explanation of the reticular markings on the legs and backs of the hands was (as seemed probable) the correct one, the peculiar condition of the skin (which was rough and slightly raised above the general surface) of the pigmented lines on the legs might be accounted for as a result of heat and venous engorgement in a boy whose natural tendency to hyperkeratosis was proved by the rough, thickened skin in front of both his knees.

<sup>1</sup> "Diseases of the Skin," 3rd ed., 1903, i, p. 74, under heading "Erythema ab igne."